DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

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A FUTURE BEAST OF BURDEN

First fluffy pets in the arms of little girls; then playfellows of the boys, drawing their small sleds; finally, husky beasts hitched to the sleds of the men, hauling skins, food, and human passengers: such is the life of the dogs of the frozen north, whether in Greenland or Kamchatka.

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Kamchatka: Alaska's Poor Relation

THE Kamchatkan peninsula and the Siberian country between it and the Arctic Ocean have attracted international attention since the report of their lease to a syndicate of Americans for the development of their natural resources. This region is a sort of half-sister to Alaska, which was also once Russian territory.

Alaska, the more comely sister, fared forth, so to speak, was sold into the family of the wealthy Uncle Sam, and has had a life rich in excitement and adventure. Kamchatka, the more homely sister, remained under the Russian rooftree on the west side of Bering Sea and has lived in seclusion.

Natives Spend "Mosquito Season" at Seashore

Kamchatka and the country north to Bering Strait contains a large area of tundras or Arctic plains; soft, spongy morasses during the few months of summer; frozen, snow-covered wastes in winter. In the higher land impenetrable underbrush springs up in summer. What little travel is possible at this season is done on the backs of sturdy ponies who must wade up the shallow streams or through the sticky swamps. In winter travel is easy. Teams of dogs and reindeer whisk laden sledges over the frozen surface of the streams and across the snow of the tundra at a rate, under favorable circumstances, of 75 miles or more a day. Trails that are virtually highways are beaten down by the teams of the natives bringing their furs—the chief present resources of the country—to the trading posts.

In the summer the curse of the moist regions of the north strikes the Kamchatkan country; swarms of mosquitoes and flies thicken the air and make life miserable for all living things. The nomadic natives flee with their herds of reindeer to the sea coast, where the breezes give some relief.

Diet More Rigorous Than Climate

Though the climate of Kamchatka is rigorous, a Westerner is likely to consider the food of the country more so. Bowls of boiled fishes' eyes are the most popular delicacy in the lower peninsula where the silver hordes of salmon run up most of the streams. To the north reindeer meat, in some form is the universal *pièce de resistance;* the tongues and marrow bones being prized in particular.

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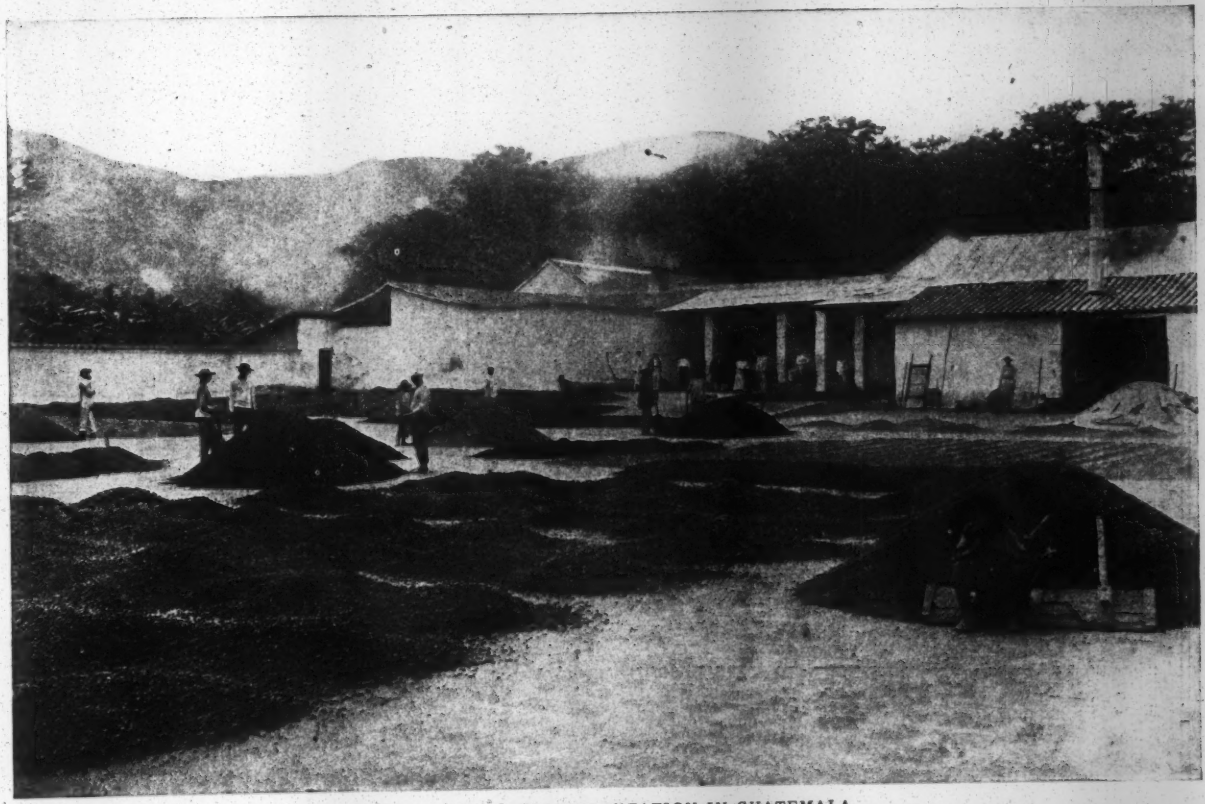

DRYING COFFEE ON A PLANTATION IN GUATEMALA

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Kobe, Osaka and Yokohama

INCREASING participation of Japan in world trade lends added interest to the commercial cities of Japan.[1]

Kobe, Osaka, and Yokohama proudly display for American observation their busy factories with their interesting products, and bustling docks where junks plying inland waters and foreign-bound steamers are gorging and disgorging freight.

The busy city of Kobe may be entered after a charming trip through the Inland Sea, that picturesque landlocked basin with four channels to the outer sea, a fairyland of islands covered with temples and trees, which is famous in Japanese song and story. One writer has called it the Gem of the World. Certainly it is one of the most beautiful sea routes in the world.

Kobe Outranks Yokohama in Volume of Commerce

Kobe, with its 2,741 acres of excellent harbor, which in modern, up-to-date fashion has been divided systematically into sections for junks, merchant vessels, and for the dreadnaughts of the Japanese Navy, is the most attractive of the treaty ports and has within the last few years shot ahead of Yokohama in the volume of its commerce, its total trade being about 40 per cent of the whole trade of the country. It ships copper, matches, rice, straw hemp, chip braids for hats, mattings, camphor, tea and cottonyarn, and yearly enough passengers land on its docks to make a city the size of Seattle, Kansas City, or Providence.

This port, which is now so attractively situated on the hill slopes running down to the sea, was merely a group of fishing huts about fifty years ago when it was first opened to foreign commerce.

And a hard time, so tradition tells us, the inhabitants of Hyogo, the old part of the city, had in the twelfth century attempting to make their water front a place of protection for even their small boats and fishing junks. While trying to build the harbor, so the story goes, Kiyomori, the actual ruler of the country, found that embankments washed away as soon as he built them. Upon consulting a fortune-teller he was advised that a sacrifice of human beings, who must be buried alive, would propitiate the angry sea-gods who were causing the destruction. Thirty strangers were ordered seized as victims, but Matsuo, a page to Kiyomori, offered himself as a substitute. With the gallant youth was buried a stone slab bearing an inscription to tell of his heroism. The harbor was then successfully completed.

Osaka, "The Venice of the East"

Osaka, which has been styled because of its numerous canals and bridges the Venice of the East, is one of the three Imperial cities, and has a popula-

[1] See also "The Temple Cities of Japan." Bulletin No. 3, November 1, 1920.

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"Cold storage" eggs contribute to the Kamchatkan tables. The eggs are obtained from the nests of gulls and other wild fowls and are buried in pits on the frosty north side of a hill until needed. Frozen berries also eke out the winter fare.

"Soup Balls" Made From Reindeer Sausage

"Soup balls," carried by winter travelers, are likely to prove a compensation to Western palates. They are small balls of reindeer "sausage" surrounded by a crust of dough, the whole about the size of an English walnut. These balls freeze and are carried in bags like marbles. A handful dropped into a kettle of boiling water produces within a few minutes a delectable and sustaining dish.

The Kamchatkan peninsula proper is about 750 miles in length, and the distance from its roots to Bering Strait is an equal distance. Kamchatka lies in the same latitude as the British Isles, while the country north to the Arctic Ocean is in the latitude of Norway. The Kamchatkan region is bathed by cold Arctic currents instead of the warm Gulf Stream, and its climate is therefore much colder than that of Britain and Scandinavia.

Photograph by Donald B. MacMillan. Used by permission National Geographic Society, © 1921.

FEEDING A DOG TEAM IN THE FAR NORTH

Dogs of this type are one of the two great agencies of transportation in Kamchatka. The Kamchatkan dogs are fed chiefly on reindeer meat and on salmon heads and backs.

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Guatemala: Land of Upheavals and Progress

A CONDITION of upheaval, not necessarily from political causes, is nothing new to the Republic of Guatemala. This country has wonderfully rich and fertile soil and its climate rarely is equaled.

The city of Guatemala, which is now partially rebuilt, was the scene of one of the most violent earthquakes known in Central American history. This earthquake extended over several months during the latter part of 1917 and the early months of 1918. It began November 17, 1917. On Christmas night in the parks of the city, beneath a full moon in an untroubled sky, the populace huddled watching in fear and misery their homes, the trees, and the earth as well, creep, writhe and twist.

City Disappears in Whirlwind of Dust

On the night of January 24, the moon again beamed from a cloudless sky upon these people as they saw nearly every remaining edifice in their city tumble in whirlwinds of dust. The tremors seemed to center under the very city itself, and spectators have said that they feared that the earth would give way and a volcano form in the very heart of the city. Houses and bell towers crumbled, water mains were broken, the sewage oozed up in the streets, and, in the cemeteries, skeletons were shaken out of their coffins.

One can take a steamer from New Orleans and in three days reach Puerto Barrios, on the Gulf of Amatique, along the sunny eastern shores of the country, where stately palms wave in greeting.

Along this seacoast and farther inland large banana plantations cover thousands of acres. This one comparatively small country raises for its own and the outside world's consumption about ten million bunches of bananas a year. The valley of the Motagua River is considered one of the most densely vegetated regions of the world.

How Coffee Is Prepared for Market

But the most important crop of the state is coffee. Upon the slopes of its mountains, 1,500 to 5,000 feet above sea level, these fields of trees in full bloom, with their wealth of fragrant white blossoms, are indeed a beautiful sight. And equally beautiful are they when the berries have become a bright red. As soon as the coffee beans are picked, they are pulped to prevent fermentation in the pulp, which would stain them, after which they go into great fermenting tanks, where they remain from 24 to 48 hours, in order to take off the sweet, gummy substance on the hull. Then they are washed and spread to dry in the sun. After the last fine silvery skin is taken off, the coffee is ready for the market. In 1918 Guatemala produced about 110 million pounds of coffee, more than 70 million pounds of which were exported to the United States.

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tion of a million. Here is located the Japanese mint covering 40 acres, a shipyard having a 1000-foot frontage, and important factories which make cotton cloth, glass, iron and steel products, boots and shoes, matches, and tobacco products. Most of the trade of Osaka, however, since the harbor is unsuited for large vessels, is with the interior.

From Japan's other important port, Yokohama, Commodore Perry first entered the country in 1854. As a transport steams out from the city and the picturesque little towns about the harbor fade into the haze, the majestic form of Fujiyama, the sacred mountain, still towers in the distance. For those who have climbed its rugged height in the dark before dawn to see the sun rise in splendor over its rim and have peered into the crater of the old volcano, the picture is one they will be glad to bring home with them in their hearts.

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Zara: Famous for Its Maraschino and Its Churches

ZARA, where Gabriele d'Annunzio landed troops to strengthen his position at Fiume, is ceded to Italy under the terms of the Rapallo agreement between Italy and Jugo-Slavia. This city, noted for its churches and its maraschino, is described in a communication to the National Geographic Society by Kenneth McKenzie as follows:

"Starting from Fiume, one sails down the channel called Quarnerolo, leaving Istria and the Gulf of Quarnero to the right. The island of Arbe, about half way to Zara, has an old cathedral with a twelfth-century tower. Coming from Trieste, one skirts the western shore of Istria, stopping perhaps at Rovigno and at Pola. The stay of an hour enables one to get a hurried glimpse of the great amphitheater and other Roman remains of Pola, under Austrian rule an important naval station and strongly fortified. The language here is chiefly Italian. Istria would well repay the time devoted to a trip of several days; but we pass on, stopping at one or two of the islands, to Zara, the most northerly town of importance in Dalmatia.

"Zara is noted all over the world for its maraschino. Aside from this, however, the town has many attractions to offer. On landing from the steamer in the land-locked harbor, we find ourselves in front of a gate in the town wall. Over the gate is the winged lion of Saint Mark, often met with here and elsewhere in Dalmatia, and a symbol of the former dominion of the Republic of Venice. Passing through the gate, we enter the narrow paved streets of a typical Italian city, such as we may imagine it to have been two or three centuries ago, except that the hotels are more comfortable. There are many medieval churches in the town, interesting architecturally, and containing works of art. The cathedral in particular, a majestic Romanesque church, is richly adorned outside with many arcades of little columns and inside with marbles and paintings. It is in the best Italian style of the Middle Ages. Its campanile is a landmark.

"Wandering among the narrow streets, we come upon several open squares and market-places, where in the morning scores of peasants may be seen in their brilliant-colored costumes. There are Roman remains, too—columns and statues.

"Leaving Zara, the steamer comes out of the harbor, encircles the point of land on which the city stands, and skirts low-lying shores, passing among innumerable islands. All at once a narrow opening appears; we go through it, and find ourselves in the spacious harbor of Sebenico, with the town rising from the water to a fort crowning the hill."

A fascinating land Guatemala is too, with its dense tropical forests covering more than a million acres, whose giant trees are linked together by trailing vines above a gorgeous carpet of orchids, waxen begonias, the peculiar blossoms of the plantain, and scarlet poinsettias.

History of Aborigines Reads Like Romance

For centuries the country was the home of the Maya-Quiché Indians, whose history reads like a romance. At Quirigua are located some of the most remarkable ruins to be found in the Americas. Many queer old monoliths, resembling, to some extent, Egyptian obelisks, from the top of which gigantic faces stare at the intruder, still stand in an excellent state of preservation, as well as many rocks carved in the shapes of animals by an ancient people. Excavations in the vicinity have revealed the ground plan of what must have been a remarkable and imposing temple.

In the mountains of Southwestern Guatemala live pure blooded Indians who have won admiration of travelers for their physique, cleanliness and scrupulous honesty. One visitor tells of trying to buy a ring from an Indian girl who refused to sell because the jewel was not pure gold, and she did not wish to sell a stranger an imitation!

These Indians wear beautiful shawls, with no fringes, dyed in brilliant colors. When brought to this country specimens have withstood repeated washing, and the colors have retained their marvelous luster.

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A One-Man Flag—The President's

MOST folk know of some of the perquisites that will accrue to the next President of the United States, such as a band which is at his disposal —the Marine Band—and the White House conservatories which provide the First Lady of the Land with flowers, but it is not so generally known that one of the honors bestowed upon the Chief Executive is a special flag.

This flag is not seen frequently. It does not float over the White House. Its use is reserved, for the most part, for occasions when the President appears in his ex-officio function as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the Navy.

The President's flag consists of the coat-of-arms as they appear on the President's seal, against a blue background, and flanked by four stars. Its history and use are described in the monograph on "Flags of the World" of the National Geographic Society as follows:

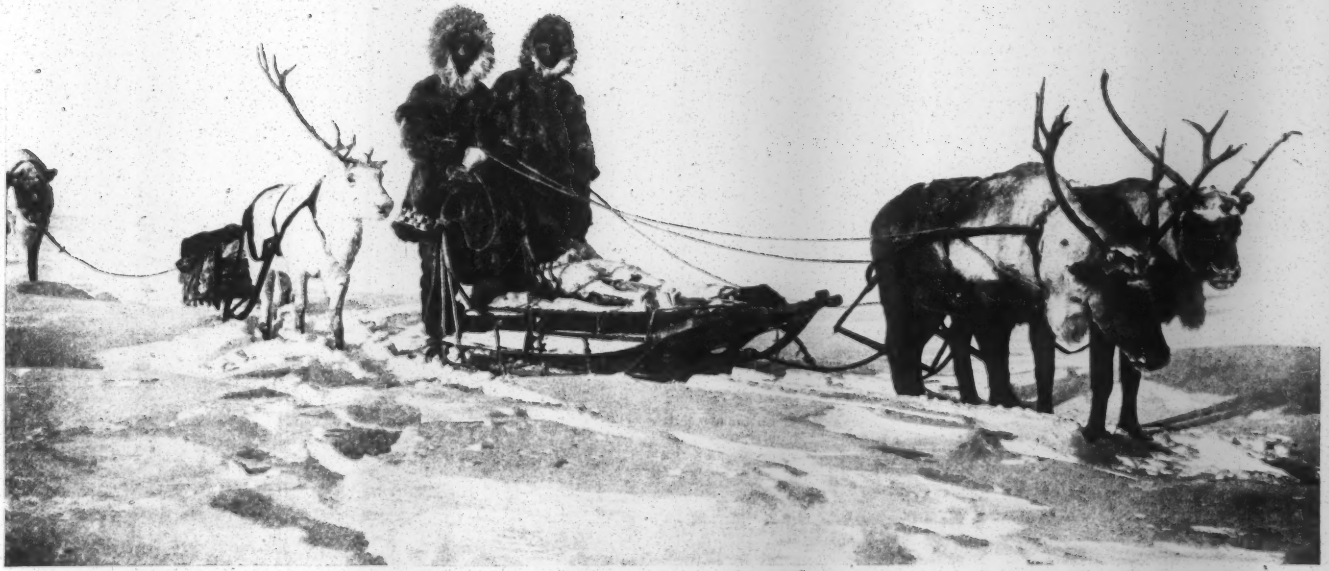
When the President Visits a United States Vessel

"When the President visits a vessel of the United States, the President's flag is broken at the main the moment he reaches the deck and is kept flying as long as he is on board. If the vessel can do so, a national salute of 21 guns is fired as soon as possible after his arrival on board. Upon departure, another salute of 21 guns is fired, the President's flag being lowered with the last gun of the salute.

"When the President is embarked in a boat he usually directs that his flag be displayed from the staff in the bow of his barge. When he passes in a boat flying his flag, vessels of the navy parade the full guard, four ruffles are given on the drum, four flourishes are sounded on the bugle, the National Anthem is played by the band, and officers and men salute. When the President is embarked in a ship flying his flag, all saluting ships, on meeting her at sea or elsewhere, and all naval batteries, fire a national salute on passing.

Formerly Two Designs Were Used

"Previous to the present order there were two designs displayed on flags and on colors to be used in the presence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the Navy. The navy design was of an earlier date than that of the army, and consisted of the coat-of-arms of the United States, as shown in the Great Seal, upon a blue ground. This happened to be almost identical with the infantry colors. The President's colors were designed to be distinctive from the infantry colors, and consisted of a blue ground with a large crimson star, outlined heavily with white. Within the star was to be seen the coat-of-arms of the United States, and outside the star within its angles were powdered small stars to the number of the States in the Union.

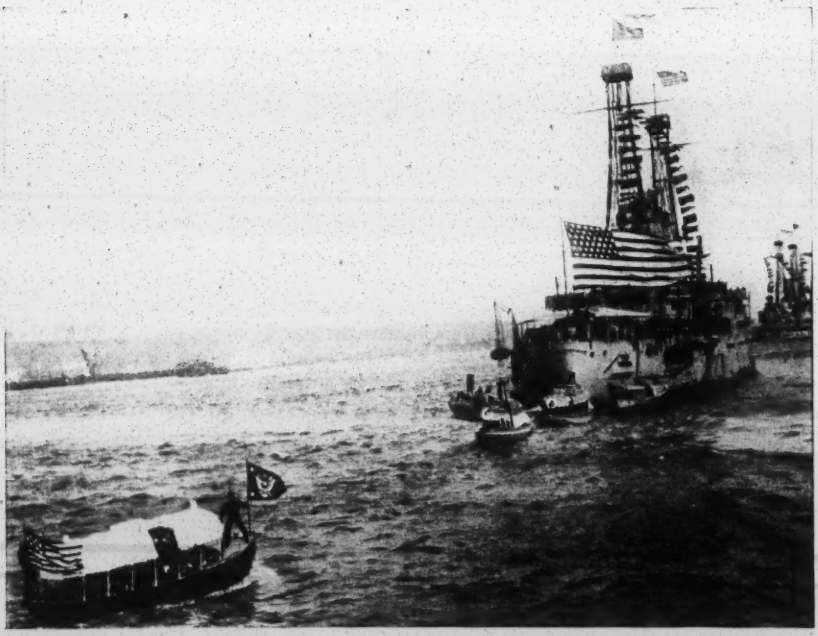


A REINDEER TEAM

Reindeer divide with dogs the task of furnishing transportation in Kamchatka. They divide the country too, for dogs are supreme in the "dog country" and are not supposed to be driven much in the "reindeer country." A dog will attack a reindeer on sight and tear it to pieces.

"The double display of flags and colors at the Grand Army Review in 1915 caused considerable comment, and as a result the suggestion was made to the President that the navy flag might fittingly be made distinctive from the infantry colors by the addition of four stars—one in each corner. The flags of an Admiral and of a General bear four stars, as a sign of command. The President approved of the idea, but directed that the coat-of-arms, as shown on the President's seal, be used upon the President's personal flag and colors."

Bulletin No. 5, January 17, 1921



Photograph by Paul Thompson. Used by permission of National Geographic Society, © 1921.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON BOARD A BARGE WHICH FLIES HIS FLAG AT THE BOW WHILE TAKING HIM FROM THE "MAYFLOWER" TO THE FLAGSHIP

The President's flag is one of the most difficult flags to make, requiring the labor of a skilled seamstress for an entire month. Every detail of the eagle, each feather, in fact, must be carefully embroidered